

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 TRSE-00 MC-02 /072 W

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R 280745Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5571

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 1613

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, NL

SUBJECT: REPLACEMENT FOR F-104S

1. DURING MARCH 26 MEETING WITH DUTCH MINISTER SOCIAL AFFAIRS
BOERSMA INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS OFFICER AND I TOOK OPPORTUNITY
DISCUSS F-16 CORPRODUCTION PROGRAM AND ADVANTAGES FOR NETHERLANDS
BOTH FROM POINT OF VIEW OF JOBS AND TRASFER OF TECHNOLOGY.
BOERSMA SAID THAT HE WAS NATURALLY INTERESTED IN AMOUNT OF WORK
THAT WOULD BE CREATED AS HIS PRINCIPAL CURRENT CONCERN IS HIGH
RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT. HOWEVER, HE THOUGHT PRINCIPAL CRITERIA FOR
SELECTION F104 SUCCESSOR SHOULD BE ITS CAPABILITIES TO FULFILL
DUTCH NATO RESPONSIBILITIES AND ITS COST. HE ADDED THAT FROM
PURELY SOCIAL POINT OF VIEW SWEDISH PRIPOSAL WAS BEST BUT SINCE
VIGGEN WAS CLEARLY INFERIOR TO OTHER F104S IN COMPETITION,
IT WAS NEVER SERIOUS CONTENDER.

2. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF TENDENCY OF SO MUCH OF RECENT DISCUSSION
ON CHOICE OF F-104 SUCCESSOR TO DWELL ON NON-MILITARY ISSUES
SUCH AS FUTURE OF EUROPEAN AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY IT WAS REFRESHING TO
HEAR BOERSMA STRSS ESSENTIALS. HIS VIEW PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT
AS HIS MINISTRY HAS PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR FIGHTING
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UNEMPLOYMENT AND, THEREFORE, HE WOULD MOST LIKELY CABINET

MEMBER TO BE ATTRACTED BY FRENCH PROMISES OF GREATER EMPLOYMENT
IF MIRAGE CHOSEN INSTEAD OF F-16.
GOULD

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, NEGOTIATIONS, EMPLOYMENT DATA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975THEHA01613
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750109-0224
From: THE HAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975034/aaaaadut.tel
Line Count: 64
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <24 SEP 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPLACEMENT FOR F-104S
TAGS: MASS, ELAB, NL
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006